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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

89. (amended) A computer system for inputting, storing, organizing, retrieving, and authenticating, medical records, clinical data, and patient data, the system comprising:
- an optical scanner for converting original hardcopy medical records, clinical data, and patient data to digital records using a digitizing process
 - said optical scanner creating a digital data matrix layer of said digital records
 - said optical scanner simultaneously assigning, embedding and/or matrixing a unique patient identifier watermark into each said digital record matrix layer during said digitizing process
 - said optical scanner simultaneously assigning, embedding and/or matrixing a first digital physician signature watermark into each said digital record matrix layers during said digitizing process
 - memory for storing said digital records within said computer system
 - means for storing said digital records in said memory and retrieving said digital records from said memory,
 - a physician signature database having a plurality of physician names and corresponding second digital physician signature watermarks stored therein,
 - means for authenticating said digital records including means for comparing said first digital physician signature watermark retrieved from a selected one of said digital records with a corresponding one of said second digital physician signature watermarks retrieved from said physician signature database, and

means for outputting said digital records.

80. (unchanged) The computer system of claim 89 wherein said stored digital records are accessible using at least one of said patient identifier, said first physician signature, a biometric characteristic of a user, and a system password.

81. (unchanged) The computer system of claim 89 wherein said digital records are accessible via a plurality of means including: a computer network, a telephone, a voice recognition system, a data access system.

82. (unchanged) The computer system of claim 89 wherein said digital records are stored in a format including at least one discrete data field, wherein said data records are retrievable based on a plurality of means including: the age and date of said clinical data, the severity of said patient's medical condition, and the medical relevance of said clinical data in treating said patient.

83. (unchanged) The computer system of claim 89 wherein said digital records can be updated on a 24 hour basis via a plurality of means including: a computer network, a telephone system, a data access system.

84. (unchanged) The computer system of claim 89 wherein said stored digital records are encrypted.

85. (unchanged) The computer system of claim 89 wherein said patient can wear or carry an identification device that has a plurality of markings for identifying said patient has a medical condition and a means for indicating, including said unique patient identifier, that said digital records corresponding to said patient are accessible via said computer system.

96. (unchanged) The computer system of claim 95 wherein said medical records can be accessed, updated, and changed on a 24 hour basis using at least one of the Internet, an Intranet, a telephone system, a data access system.

97 (unchanged) The computer system of claim 89 further comprising a plurality of computers or workstations coupled to said memory for simultaneous access, processing or transmitting of said digital records.

98 (amended) A process for inputting, storing, organizing, retrieving and authenticating medical records, clinical data, and personal data, the process comprising the steps of:

- converting a plurality of original ~~hardcopy~~ medical records into corresponding digital records using an optical scanner digitizing process

- creating a digital data matrix layer of said digital records during said optical scanner digitizing process

- assigning and embedding a unique patient identifier watermark into each said digital record matrix layer simultaneous with said optical scanner digitizing process

- embedding a first digital physician signature watermark into each said digital record matrix layer simultaneous with said digitizing process

- storing said digital records in a computer memory;

- storing a plurality of physician names and corresponding second digital physician signature watermarks in a computer memory;

- authenticating said digital records by comparing said first physician signature watermark to a corresponding one of said second physician signature watermarks;

- retrieving said stored digital records for a selected patient; and

- outputting said retrieved digital records.

99. (unchanged) The process of claim 98 wherein said step of retrieving said digital records further comprises a step of authorizing access to said computer memory, said step of authorizing access includes using a plurality of identification means including: said patient identifier, said first physician signature, a biometric characteristic of a user, and a password..

100. (unchanged) The process of claim 99 wherein the step of retrieving said digital records further comprises a step of accessing said computer memory using a plurality of means including: a computer network, a telephone, and a voice or data access system.

101. (unchanged) The process of claim 98 wherein said step of storing said digital records includes organizing said digital records in a page format including at least one discrete data field..

102. (unchanged) The process of claim 98 wherein the step of outputting said digital records includes ordering said digital records by a plurality of means including: the age and date of said clinical data, a degree of said patient's medical condition, and a relevance of said clinical data to treating said patient.

103. (unchanged) The process of claim 98 further comprising a step of updating said digital records.

104. (unchanged) The process of claim 98 further comprising a step of encrypting said digital records.

105. (unchanged) The process of claim 98 further comprising a step of providing an identification device, wherein a patient can wear or carry said identification device, for the purpose of indicating that a patient has a

medical condition and medical records corresponding to said patient are accessible from said computer system.

106 (unchanged) The process of claim 98 further comprising a step of providing a plurality of remote computers or workstations wherein each said remote computer or workstation provides for accessing and processing said stored digital records.

107 (amended) A computer system for inputting, storing, organizing, authenticating, retrieving medical records, clinical data, and patient data, the system comprising:

- an optical scanner for converting ~~original hardcopy~~ medical records, clinical data, and patient data to digital records using a digitizing process;

- said optical scanner creating a digital data matrix layer of each said digital records

- said optical scanner simultaneously assigning, embedding and/or matrixing a first physician biometric characteristic watermark into each said digital record during said digitizing process;

- means for storing said digital records therein;

- means for authenticating said digital records including comparing a second physician biometric characteristic obtained during a login process, or stored in a database, to said first physician biometric characteristic watermark.

108 (amended) A process for inputting, storing, organizing, authenticating, retrieving medical records, clinical data, and patient data, the process comprising:

- converting ~~original hardcopy~~ medical records,, clinical data, and patient data to digital records using an optical scanner digitizing process

- creating a digital data matrix layer of said digital records

embedding a first physician biometric characteristic watermark into each said digital record matrix layer simultaneous with said optical scanner digitizing process;

storing said digital medical records corresponding to said patient therein;

authenticating said digital records by comparing a second physician biomedical characteristic obtained during login, or stored in a separate database, to said first physician biometric characteristic watermark embedded in said digital record.

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